



**Testimony  
In Public Health  
on**

**S.B. No. 213 (RAISED) AN ACT ALLOWING MEDICAL ASSISTANTS TO ADMINISTER  
VACCINES.**

**March 4, 2022**

On behalf of the Connecticut ENT Society, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians, Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society and the Connecticut Urology Society, organizations representing over 800 practicing physicians in Connecticut we thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on **Raised Bill 213, An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines.** We ask you to consider additional language that will help support physician-led teams to function to the best of their ability.

Every member of the Public Health Committee is well-acquainted with the challenges the pandemic has created. The challenges faced by the medical community are, perhaps, the most daunting.

It has been necessary to restructure the delivery of health care “on the fly” as we strive to do our best to protect our patients, our staffs and ourselves. We continue to nimbly make innumerable adjustments to the ways we deliver health care. The offering of timely distribution and administration of the newly developed vaccines is essential to restoration of all aspects of our lives and our society. As we pursue strategies to control the COVID-19 virus, we will create a “new normal” which is – and will remain -- a work in progress for some time to come.

We support the concept of allowing well-trained Medical Assistants to administer vaccinations under the guidance of licensed care providers, but we wish to avoid unintended consequences.



The piece meal approach of identifying and authorizing individual tasks for Medical Assistants, such as the administration of vaccines, may overlook or exclude equally important activities.

The delegation of duties within a medical practice has historically been at the discretion of the most highly trained member of the health care team – the physician. Under this model, physicians bear the responsibilities – and the risks – of their decisions.

We strongly believe that the physician should delegate tasks to trusted assistants who are trained to their satisfaction, a decision based on training and experience. We recommend that this bill simply states the ability to delegate tasks by physicians includes, but is not limited to, the administration of vaccines.

This tried-and-true model has served us well and allows more flexibility and agility in responding to changing needs-while preserving patient safety and allowing the efficient delivery of health care.

Thank you for your consideration.